

I attended the localism field hearing in Rapid City on May 26 but could not stay long enough to put my comment on the record. I grew up in Rapid City but have also lived in urban areas (Bay Area, CA; Minneapolis/St. Paul) and have lived in other democracies (United Kingdom; Japan). I am a criminal defense attorney in Rapid City. I work to protect constitutional rights. I am very concerned about the effect of media concentration on our first amendment rights. The airwaves belong to us all, but freedom of speech depends upon who owns the microphone. I believe that media concentration is largely to blame for our current international problems (illegal and immoral preemptive war). I applaud local stations, especially KOTA, for covering anti-war protests. I urge all board members to promote both localism and internationalism in the media. Nationalism currently rules the day and is destroying our democracy. Thank you for coming to Rapid City and for your anticipated consideration of my comment.